

FINAL COPY

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BINGHAMTON - JOHNSON CITY JOINT SEWAGE BOARD

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: Chris Papastrat, Chairman
George Kolba, Vice Chairman
Edward Crumb
Stephen Andrew (3:50 PM via Audio/Visual Attendance)
Ray Standish (Audio/Visual Attendance)

Member Absent: Ron Davis

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller (Exited at 4:47PM)
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Adam Afify, Acting Head Operator (Exited at 5:37PM)
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer (Exited at 5:37PM)
Ron Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Project Engineer (Exited at 4:43PM)
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Clark Giblin, Deputy Mayor, Village of Johnson City (Exited at 5:37PM)
Rich David, Mayor, City of Binghamton (Exited at 4:40PM)
Greg Deemie, Mayor, Village of Johnson City (Audio/Visual, Exited at 4:40PM)
Angela Riley, City of Binghamton, Council Member, 3rd District
(Audio/Visual, Exited at 5:37PM)
Aviva Freidman, City of Binghamton Council Member, 4th District
(Audio/Visual, Exited at 4:53)
Larry Travis, Computer Systems Engineer (Exited at 5:37PM)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist

Guests: None

Chairman Chris Papastrat called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Sign in sheet was passed around and Confidential Secretary Michele Cuevas took attendance aloud. Four (4) Board

Members were present, one (1) was present via audio/visual (Ray Standish) and two (2) were absent (Ron Davis and Stephen Andrew). Fire exits were identified.

Privilege of the Floor

No one wished to speak.

February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted February 9, 2021 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 4/0/2 Absent (RD, SA)

Board Member Steve Andrew entered the meeting via Audio/Visual at 3:50PM. A quorum of five is now present.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager reviewed his report which was distributed in the Board Members' folders after which he stated that things are running pretty much under budget at this time. He then paused on turning the reporting over to Mr. Crumb to give the floor to Mayor David for discussion of an **Audit of Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Operation.**

Mayor David stated that he will be speaking on his own behalf as well as Mayor Deemie who was present via audio/visual.

That their interest in this audit is to protect the ratepayers and the investment made in the Plant; to evaluate the maintenance plan in place and to ensure that the plan is enough to maintain a steady run; and to provide transparency. The long-term goal is for future Mayors, Boards, Councils, and Trustees not to be faced with the same position as in the past arising out of decades of unidentified and unresolved issues which are now identified and resolved; that the treatment plant disaster recovery project was the largest single project in this region, and he is hopeful that the Board will see this audit process as a favorable opportunity for a sound future for the plant.

Mayor Deemie agreed with Mayor David's statements and added that the audit would help future generations and provides due diligence for the rate-payers.

Questions and concerns were exchanged and discussed. George Kolba expressed disagreement with the statement that the audit would be "independent" given Kruger, a Veolia subsidiary, is actively working at the Plant.

Edward Crumb made a motion for Board approval to transfer in the 2021 Operating & Maintenance budget \$66,300.00 from J8130.55000 (Contingency) to J8130.54118 (Clerk of the Works Services) in order to be encumbered for a contract for an audit of the maintenance operations at the JSTP and that the Requests for Legislation to be submitted to the Owners' Legislative Bodies as soon as possible. Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.

In discussion, George Kolba asked Al Paniccia, Esq. whether there was anything the Board would become involved in relation to this motion that would be inappropriate. Mr. Paniccia did not state any concerns.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)

Regarding the TPS, Vice Chairman Kolba wanted to bring to the attention of Mayor David and Mayor Deemie in that the Plant cannot obtain insurance without a Statement of Special Inspection by an engineer or architect and that Mr. Lake could not obtain either. Mr. Kolba was concerned as to who would pay for any future flood damages. Mayor David advised that he would discuss this further with Ron Lake.

Mayor David and Mayor Deemie exited the meeting at 4:40 PM.

Mr. Crumb then presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report, copies of which were distributed in the Board Folders. He explained how to review the Chart Report, as well as the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report.

Superintendent's Report

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent's Report which appears below and was distributed in the Board Folders along with the accompanying charts and graphs. Keeping the report brief due to time, he overviewed the Weekly Plant Report. Superintendent Wagner advised that methanol prices have been effected due to the recent weather event (freeze) in Texas. He also wanted to advise that he is seeking to fill an Electrician position, that this position requires a Journeyman Electrician. With regard to Bollards - Engineer Ron Lake advised that they've ordered jersey barriers and that they will be delivered soon. Superintendent Wagner is requesting that Engineer Ron Lake double check the H line.

Weekly **Plant** Status 3/9/2021

Main Pumps:

Auto

Headworks:

Auto. Waiting on Vendor and Authorization for compactor refurbish/replacement.

Aerated Grit System:

Auto.

Primaries:

Auto.

Sludge Handling Building:

Auto

Thickeners:

Auto

Digesters:

Auto.

Micro-Turbines:

Semi-Auto, Spoke with RSP, they are contacting all responsible parties to try and resolve this issue.

Centrifuges:

Auto.

Scum system:

Hand.

Actiflo:

Auto (With Sand Loss)

SIPS:

Auto

BioStyr, CN Cells:

Auto:

Methanol:

Auto.

D/N Cells:

Auto

UV system:

Auto.

Plant Water System:

Auto

Storm Water pump stations:

Stand-By, see below

Chemical Storage system:

Auto

Scrubber system:

Offline for the winter.

HVAC Systems:

Auto

Laboratory:

WET testing: Outside lab issue. Wet testing restarted Sunday, will end on Friday .

CMMS:

61 Work orders for this week. 160 Closed work orders last week. Qty of 32 Misc. open, non-critical work orders.

Staffing:

Looking for an electrician.

Operator trainee started Monday.

Operator trainee starts tomorrow.

Landfill:

8 trucks this week.

Training:

Mechanics Gas Skid training,

Construction:

Still waiting for O&Ms from Matco.

Waiting on storm water pump VFD installation, Matco has it in their possession.

As-built drawings (Ron Lake stated that GHD needs all mark-ups in order to do, and it will likely be June-July until the supporting documentation is to GHD so that it can proceed).

Bollards.

Cover installation on Primary 1-6 started yesterday.

Chem storage building, waiting on trap primer wiring.

30 day performance test on Actiflo system. System has not passed; sand loss is not getting any better; this item is holding-up release from the NYS-DEC Consent Order.

Plant water system and SIPS pump room roof leaks. Jacobs has been notified.

Leak near H-line, much worse during snow melt/rain events. Jacobs has been notified.

(JC Deputy Mayor Giblin exited the meeting)

A brief discussion took place regarding procurement of methanol including, potentially, used methanol.

(Fiscal Officer Shager exited the meeting)

Superintendent Wagner briefly mentioned the tables and graphs included in his report.

Ron Lake, P.E. noted issues remain with GHD's design for the "Plant Water" system for cooling (which, when resolved, has the potential to reduce the Plant's consumption of potable water for cooling purposes).

A brief mention of the status of recruitment and qualifications for the Mechanic's Assistant position took place.

(Councilwoman Friedman exited the meeting)

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Pearsall presented the Business Manager's report copies of which were distributed in the Board Members' folders. Mr. Pearsall is requesting Board approval for the 2020 Billable Wastewater Flows.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratifies the 2020 Billable Wastewater Flows in the amount of 3,061,948 hundred cubic foot units as detailed in the 2020 Flow Table prepared by the Business Manager and that the same be certified and provided to the Fiscal Officer for use in preparing the 2020 Final Billing.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)

Edward Crumb wanted to also mention the exceptional job Mr. Pearsall did with the Flow numbers what with pandemic restrictions and other challenges and that on behalf of the Board expresses appreciation to Mr. Pearsall.

Mr. Pearsall is also requesting Board approval for Actuarial Valuation which Mr. Crumb expressed that he would like to address particular questionable cost issues in the report before moving forward and ratifying. This will be held until the next meeting unless it is decided a special meeting is required.

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrew had nothing further to report.

Finance: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb stated that review of the 2020 flows has been a significant work; he overviewed the reports outlining the flows and Connection Census by Municipal User. Mr. Crumb also addressed the status of reimbursement submittals to FEMA/NY regarding the September 2011 Flooding and payments which were distributed in the Board folders. At present, \$17.19 million is outstanding for reimbursement, \$16.67 million of which constitutes pass-through reimbursements to the Owners.

Personnel: Steve Andrew – Mr. Andrew submitted the proposal to the union and to date has not received a response.

Ad Hoc: Ronald Davis – absent, but Edward Crumb stepped in to report on the DEC CyberSecurity alert to wastewater treatment plants.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb stated that all the numbers are improving and gave kudos to the plant employees for the improvements taking place. He also noted the Gannett/USA Today Network series "Killing the Chesapeake" Bay series which was published February 21-28, 2021 and mostly focused on deficiencies in Pennsylvania's progress in meeting the EPA TMDL requirements.

Correspondence: Confidential Secretary Cuevas reviewed GHD/Jason Greene's Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Status Report which was distributed in the Board folders noting that there was only one outstanding amount owed: by Binghamton University for \$2,750.00. She received Mr. Crumb's 6 month reappointment letter from Mayor David but to date has not received a letter for Chairman Papastrat. Mr. Papastrat stated he received his reappointment letter and will email it to Ms. Cueveas.

(Ron Lake, P.E. exited the meeting)

Old Business – none

New Business

There was a brief discussion regarding reappointment term limits and after discussion with Co-counsel Al Paniccia, it was determined that this matter was at the discretion of the Mayor in accordance with the IMA.

Executive Session

**Edward Crumb made a motion to into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.
Seconded by Steve Andrew.
Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)**

(Councilwoman Riley and Facilities Engineer Reeve exited the meeting).

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:37PM

**Ray Standish made a motion to return from Executive Session.
Seconded by Steve Andrew.
Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 5:55PM. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

**Edward Crumb made a motion for Board approval to fund the position of Electrical Engineer at salary of \$87,000.00. Will need Civil Service Commission approval first before the corresponding budget transfer Requests for Legislation are submitted.
Motion seconded by George Kolba.
Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)**

**Ray Standish made a motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by George Kolba.
Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RD)**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Smith
Transcriptionist

cc: Board Members
Mayor Rich David, City of Binghamton
Mayor Greg Deemie, Village of Johnson City
City Clerk, City of Binghamton
Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Johnson City
Alfred Paniccia, Esq.
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer
Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Brown & Brown Empire State
Haylor Freyer & Coon
Joshua Holland, P.E., Village of Johnson City Engineer
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton Engineer
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